

The losers as agencies lock horns



The bighorn sheep may be near the end of the trail unless steps are taken to help them survive.

project for 30 days? "Gosh, I don't know," Frandsen said. "They want right conditions to be trapping those animals, I think."

Jense contends that an environmental assessment is not needed on the capture site, Sid's Mountain. The locality is "just a wilderness study area, and it's not a wilderness area,"

he said.

The BLM should have no prohibition against using helicopters in a wilderness study area, he said.

Even if Sid's Mountain were formally designated as a wilderness, he said, the state should be allowed to use helicopters there anyway. They have been used in that area for big-

horn sheep counts, he said.

"We feel like it is a valid management practice," he said. "We did do a census this year, using a helicopter, in the same area. We have for several years."

The project may be revived next year. If it is, Frandsen added, "I hope that there's enough lead time."

Bighorn a

By Joseph Bauman 1-17-9

Deseret News environmental specialist

State officials and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently butted heads over the transplanting of desert bighorn sheep — and the BLM won.

"Our plans were to trap some desert bighorn off of the San Rafael area and move them over to the Little Rockies, and possibly down to the Happy Canyon area in the Dirty Devil (River) drainage," said Grant K. Jense, assistant chief of big game for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

"We don't know if we'll do that this year or not, because the BLM has to do some environmental assessment stuff."

State officials hoped to capture up to 20 bighorns in the San Rafael Swell, using a helicopter, net and drugged darts. They would be used to boost sheep populations elsewhere.

State biologists have the legal responsibility to manage wildlife in Utah. But the project ran into environmental flak from the BLM, and it's apparently shelved for this year.

The BLM's state deputy director for resources, O'Dell Frandsen, said Thursday, "It's not going to happen now. It's been canceled."

Instead, the transplantation project may begin next year, he said.

According to Frandsen, the controversy developed over two issues: whether the state has finished writing a wildlife management plan for the area where the bighorns were to be taken, and whether a permit is needed to capture sheep with helicopters in the Sid's Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

Sid's Mountain is in the rugged San Rafael Swell of Emery County. The areas where the bighorns were to be released are in the Little Rockies (sort of an extension of the Henry Mountains) or the Dirty Devil River vicinity, both in the Wayne County desert near Hanksville.

Frandsen said the BLM has agreed with environmental groups and others that actions planned for wilderness study areas will happen only after an environmental assessment is prepared. Ordinarily, helicopters are banned from wilderness areas.

An environmental assessment must have a 30-day public comment period. But delaying the project for that long may have disrupted the state's timetable, and state officials didn't want to wait that long, he said.

Why couldn't the state delay the

FOCUS: Characterizations

Paige Petersen of Carbon High School is featured in latest iss

Orem-based magazine creative outlet for young

By Lane Williams
Deseret News staff writer

OREM — For young writers, a big challenge is finding a way to publish their work.

That is, until this school year, when Young Writer's Challenge magazine debuted.

The national magazine is based in Orem and features fiction, essays, poetry, short stories and other articles by high school students nationwide.

It is owned by Kenneth Cenell and Mary Jensen.

Jensen said one of the main satisfactions of the business is helping students across the country get published, discovering their talent.

The cover of each magazine features a picture of a student who has written an article. The upcoming fifth edition will feature Paige Petersen, a student at Carbon High School in Price.

One of the unique things about the magazine is its readership. Instead of sending the magazine to students, Cenell and Jensen target high school teachers.

They sent the first two issues to most of the 20,000 high schools in the country, which resulted in 3,000 subscriptions. Some schools have subscribed for an entire class of students. Nine issues

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